



Minutes for SDWARN  
Annual Meeting  
September 14, 2017  
Huron Crossroads Event Center

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the South Dakota Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network was brought to order by Chairperson Brad Lawrence. Attendance sheet is attached.

### **STEERING COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE**

Greg Gross replaced Morris Elcock as the SDARWS representative and Tim Monson replaced Stephanie Akers as the SDWWA representative on the SDWARN Steering Committee.

### **ELECTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Incumbents Brad Lawrence and Greg Merrigan were re-elected in their seats on the committee. Their terms expire in two years.

### **SDWARN UPDATE**

At the time of the meeting, membership was at 112. At the time of this writing, we have 115 members. Equipment and storage/shelving has been obtained and is based in the SDARWS offices in Madison and Spearfish. Three trailers were purchased so the pumps and equipment donated can be easily transported. SDARWS will organize training so the pumps will be exercised and kept in working order.

### **FUNDING**

A needs list was in the agenda packet and discussion took place on how to purchase it. SDWARN does not have a source of funding. We have gratefully accepted donations from other South Dakota water/wastewater organizations. Other ideas to raise some money and fill out the needs list were: continue to accept donations; sell advertising on the website; membership fee (optional or required?); ask membership to purchase and donate items from the needs list; charge the FEMA rate for renting SDWARN equipment to members for non-emergency events.

### **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT DISCUSSION**

A discrepancy was discovered by the SD Public Assurance Alliance between what is written in our mutual aid agreement and state law. Michael J. McGill, attorney for Clay Rural Water, reviewed the discrepancy and provided his opinion. The SDWARN MAA is written based on ICS which makes the requesting party

the responsible party. It is meant to protect the responding party. In contrast, State law says the responding party is responsible for providing insurance and is liable for use of the property. Mr. McGill recommended changing the SDWARN MAA, Section IX, by removing the reference to SDCL 34-48-8 or changing it to SDCL 34-48-6. A change like this would need approval by the SDWARN members. The alternative is to change state law. Brad is attending the National WARN meeting in Houston in November and will gather information how other WARNs are addressing this discrepancy.

#### **THINGS TO DO**

- 1) Increase our membership.
- 2) Letter to our members regarding the need to address funding and complete the needs list.
- 3) Letter to our members regarding the discrepancy between SDWARN MAA and our state law.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.